

Water occupies a good portion of the space in the southern section of Washington Park. Bridges stretch across small inlets of the irregularly-shaped lagoon **1** to provide a continuous walking trail around the perimeter of the water. Granite boulders placed near bridges simulate "glacial erratics," stones left in arbitrary places when glaciers retreated 10,000 years ago.

Sections of the lagoon and nearby casting pond **6** have undergone restoration. Aquatic and wetland plants have been installed along the shoreline. Bynam Island **2 3** occupies the center of the lagoon. Cattails, asters and sumac are found along the edges of the island.

Wood ducks swim in the lagoons at Washington Park. Another novelty is the presence of the brilliant green monk parakeets that have set up nests along Cottage Grove Avenue; they are seen

frequently throughout Washington Park and the Hyde Park neighborhood. The parrots are originally from South America, but have established a wild population here.

The habitat significance of Washington Park is increased by the fact that it is connected to Jackson Park (sites 41, p. 70; and 63, p. 69) by the Midway Plaisance, a wide green boulevard.

In 1871, Washington Park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, the same landscape architects who designed Central Park in New York City, Central Park in New York City, and many other significant North American landscapes in the latter part of the 19th century.

WASHINGTON PARK—
LAGOON AND CASTING POND



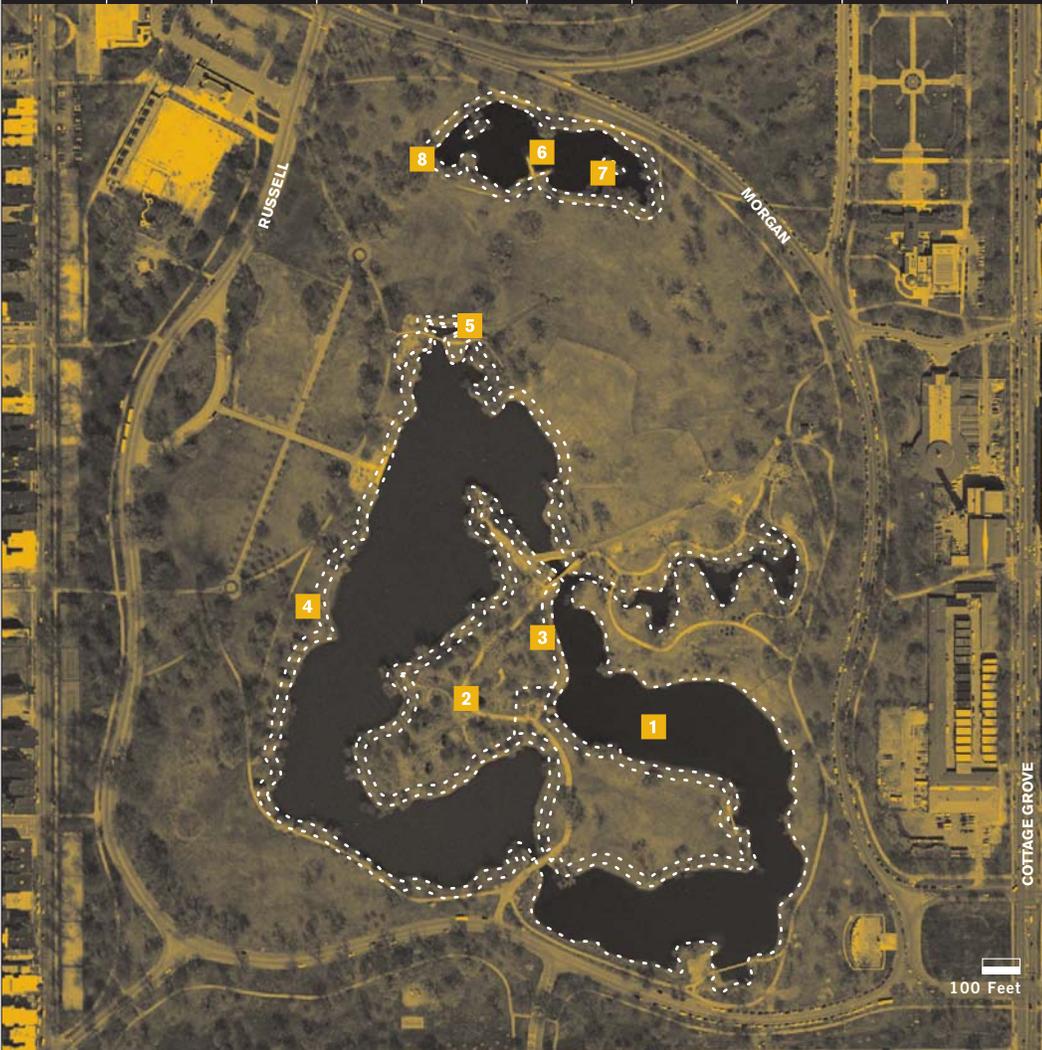
Site No 84

5500 SOUTH / 600 EAST



**Washington Park—
Lagoon and Casting Pond**

N: 84



ADDRESS 5531 S King Drive
OWNER Chicago Park District
ACREAGE 32.76

HABITATS
1 6 Aquatic
2 Savanna
3 4 7 8 Riparian/Water Edge
5 Prairie/Grassland

DIRECTIONS Park on any side of the park along the streets or interior road; the east side is generally taken up with parked cars from University of Chicago. The lagoon is south of 55th (Garfield Boulevard) between Dr. Martin Luther King Drive and Cottage Grove.

Washington Park—Lagoon and Casting Pond

Chicago Habitat Directory 2005

100 Feet